

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

MARVEL

#1

NICIEZA
SANDOVAL
CURIEL



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AGE OF APOCALYPSE

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AGE OF APOCALYPSE

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF FRAGMENTS FROM WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM. EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF, BUT NONE IS RULED MORE RUTHLESSLY THAN THE REALM OF EN SABAH NUR, APOCALYPSE.



MAGNETO
MAX EISENHARDT
a.k.a. ERIK LEHNSHERR

CAPACITIES: Generate and control magnetic fields

PROFILE: Leader of the X-MEN, named after his deceased friend (see XAVIER, CHARLES). Magneto has recruited and trained young terrorist rebels who have opposed the rightful rule of Baron Nur.



DR. PETER CORBEAU

PROFILE: Human physicist who has earned some favor from Baron Nur due to their mutual affinity for science. Corbeau is the elected leader of the Human Community, but is also suspected of fomenting the underground terrorist group known as The Friends of Humanity.



HOLocaust
WILLIAM ROLFSON

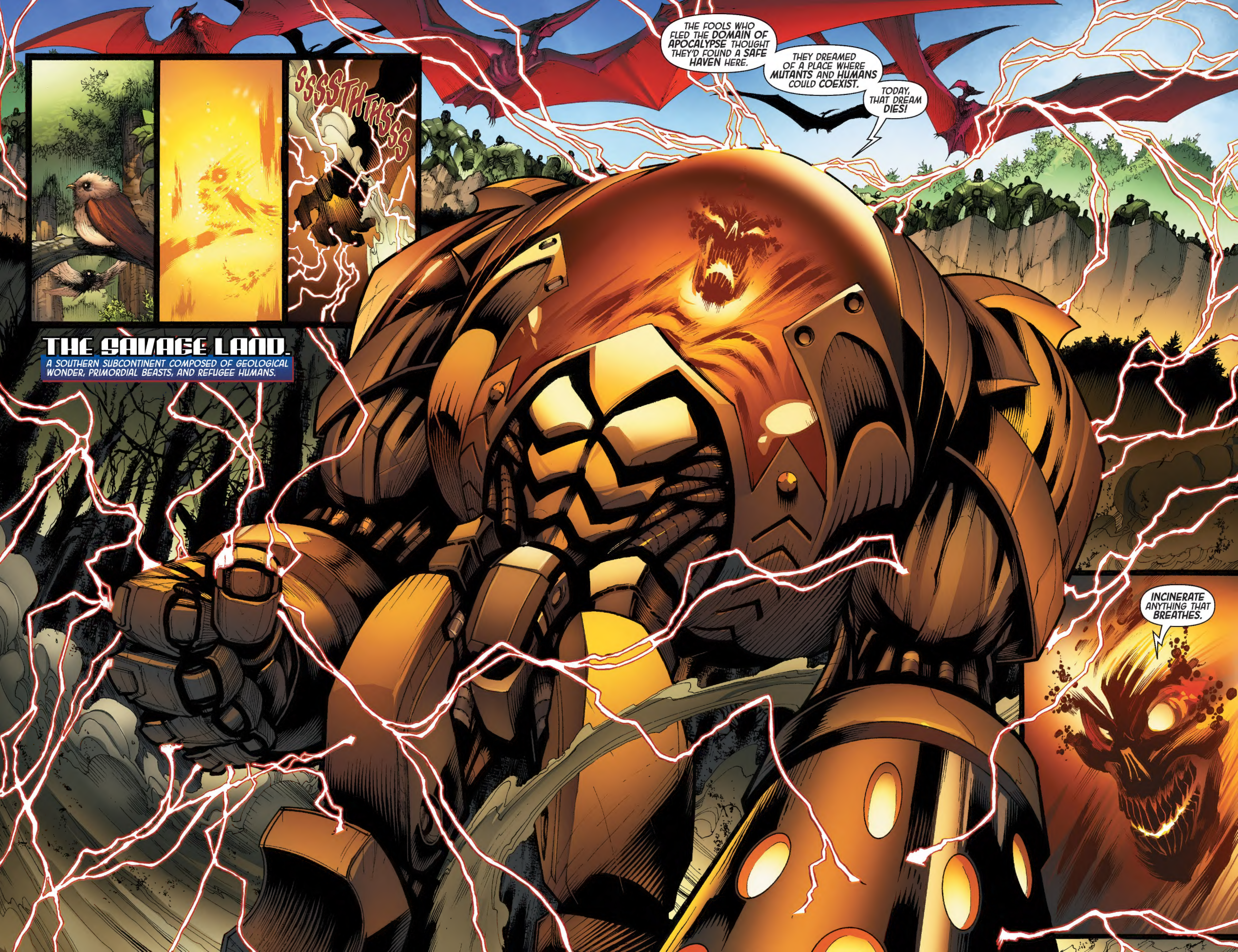
CAPACITIES: Generates bio-nuclear microwave energy blasts.

PROFILE: The son of Baron Nur is the most powerful of the FOUR HORSEMEN. He is a ruthless killing machine who becomes more powerful with every death he causes.

STICKS AND STONES...

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THE FOOLS WHO
FLED THE DOMAIN OF
APOCALYPSE THOUGHT
THEY'D FOUND A SAFE
HAVEN HERE.

THEY DREAMED
OF A PLACE WHERE
MUTANTS AND HUMANS
COULD COEXIST.

TODAY,
THAT DREAM
DIES!

SSSTHSSSS

THE SAVAGE LAND.

A SOUTHERN SUBCONTINENT COMPOSED OF GEOLOGICAL
WONDER, PRIMORDIAL BEASTS, AND REFUGEE HUMANS.

INCINERATE
ANYTHING THAT
BREATHES.



WE HEARD THE *INFINITE SOLDIERS* TWO HOURS BEFORE THEY REACHED US.

THEY ROLLED IN LIKE *THUNDER*.

I COULD TELL THEY WERE GETTING CLOSER BECAUSE THE SOUNDS OF DEATH GOT LOUDER.



BECAUSE OF MY *MUTANT POWERS*, I COULD ALSO *FEEL* EACH DEATH THROUGH THE SHOUTS AND SCREAMS OF THE VICTIMS.

JUST LIKE I COULD FEEL THE SADNESS AND RESIGNATION IN IRENE'S VOICE...



RUN, DOUGLAS!

...ALL MY LIFE, ALL I'VE DONE IS RUN.

IT'S EITHER THAT OR GET *CRUSHED* UNDER THE *BOOTED HEEL* OF *APOCALYPSE*.

YOU RUN TO *SURVIVE*...

...AND I'M *TIRED* OF IT.



I WANT TO STAY WITH
YOU, DESTINY!

YOU
CAN'T, YOU
ARE DESTINED TO
CHANGE THE--

NYEEARR--

**FFZ
ZSHYEEK**

IRENE!



IRONIC,
THAT SOMEONE
WHO CALLS HERSELF
DESTINY COULDN'T SEE
HER OWN DEATH
COMING.

YOU ARE
DOUGLAS RAMSEY?
THE BOY CALLED
CYPHER.

SHE
SEEMED QUITE
WILLING TO DIE
FOR YOU,
PUP.



LET'S SEE IF
HOLOCAUST
CAN FIND OUT
WHY...

NEW CAIRO.

THRONE CHAMBER OF APOCALYPSE.



ESSEX...

YOU
SUMMONED
ME...



...BARON
APOCALYPSE.

AS FIRST HORSEMAN, I TASKED
YOU WITH DISCERNING WHETHER
THESE SO-CALLED "FRIENDS
OF HUMANITY" POSE A
THREAT.

CERTAINLY, A
CHALLENGE WOULD
BE...WELCOME.

THEY ARE
BUT FLATSCAN
RABBLE, MY BARON.
THE KEY TO UNCOVERING
THE TRUTH BEHIND
THEIR LIES...



"...DEPENDS ON YOUR SON'S
FORAY INTO THE SAVAGE LAND."

CREED
FAILED TO
LOCATE YOU BEFORE
GETTING HIMSELF
DISTRACTED...

...BUT NOW
WE'LL LEARN
YOUR SECRETS IN
MCCOY'S
LAB...

NNGMM

THIS IS THE
SECOND HORSEMAN
OF APOCALYPSE WHO
HAS COME LOOKING
FOR ME. WHY?



I'VE BEEN
INSIGNIFICANT MY
ENTIRE LIFE. WHAT
MAKES ME SO
IMPORTANT ALL
OF A SUDDEN?

HNN.

ICE?

THIS IS
A PLEASANT
SURPRISE.

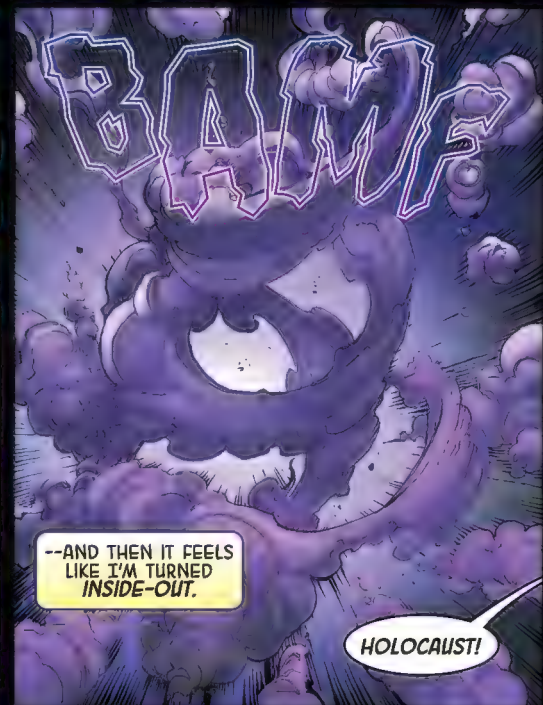


ICE, THEN A **LASER**
BEAM? IT CAN'T BE
THEM, CAN IT?



GUTEN
MORGEN.

I GAG
FROM THE SMELL
OF **BRIMSTONE**--



--AND THEN IT FEELS
LIKE I'M TURNED
INSIDE-OUT.

HOLOCAUST!



THE BOY,
DOUG RAMSEY,
IS UNDER THE
PROTECTION
OF--



--THE
X-MEN

I REGRET
THAT YOUR FEEBLE
LEADER, MAGNETO,
IS NOT WITH
YOU--

--BUT I
PROMISE I'LL
STILL ENJOY
THIS...

STORM
MANIPULATES
THE WEATHER.

EXODUS IS A
TELEKINETIC, TELEPATH,
TELEPORTER...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT ELSE.

COLOSSUS TURNS
HIS SKIN INTO
ORGANIC METAL.

DAZZLER CONVERTS
SOUND INTO BEAMS
OF HARD LIGHT...

...AND ICEMAN--
WELL, YOU DON'T
NEED TO BE A
LANGUAGE DECODER
LIKE ME TO FIGURE
THAT ONE OUT.

TO SOME, THEY'RE
HEROES, FIGHTING
AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF
BARON APOCALYPSE.

TO OTHERS, THEY'RE
TERRORISTS, INTENT ON DISRUPTING
OUR RIGIDLY CONTROLLED SOCIETY.

ME? I THINK
THEY'RE BOTH.

A comic book panel showing Nightcrawler, a mutant with blue fur, a red and black suit, and a blue cape, teleporting through the air. He is leaving a white, smoke-like trail behind him. In the background, a woman with long blonde hair and a blue and yellow outfit is seen from behind, looking towards the teleportation. The setting appears to be a forest or a wooded area with trees and foliage.

MY GUARDIAN DEMON
HERE IS NIGHTCRAWLER.
AGILITY AND SHORT-
RANGE TELEPORTING.

IN SCHOOL, WE WERE
TAUGHT THE "TERRORIST
X-MEN" WERE TRAITORS
BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT--

A large comic book panel depicting a massive battle. On the left, Cyclops, with his red visor and blue and red armor, is shown in a dynamic pose, shouting or shouting. He is surrounded by thick, billowing clouds of smoke and debris. In the center, a large, dark, mechanical figure with multiple eyes and a menacing expression is visible. On the right, a large, orange, mechanical head with glowing yellow eyes is shown. The background is filled with fire and smoke, suggesting a large-scale conflict.

--FOR A WORLD
WHERE HUMANS AND
MUTANTS COULD
COEXIST.

NEVER SOUNDED
LIKE SUCH A BAD
THING TO ME...

...BUT APOCALYPSE'S
MANTRA BOILS DOWN
TO ONE SIMPLE
SLOGAN--

A comic book panel showing Jean Grey, with her long blonde hair and blue and yellow outfit, standing on the left. She is holding a glowing, multi-colored sphere in her hands. In the center, a large, dark, mechanical figure with multiple eyes and a menacing expression is shown. On the right, a large, orange, mechanical head with glowing yellow eyes is visible. The background is filled with fire and smoke, suggesting a large-scale conflict.

--"SURVIVAL
OF THE
FITTEST!"



--AND HIS MOST DANGEROUS!

HOLOCAUST'S ARMOR CASING HAS BEEN BREACHED.

HE IS AT HIS MOST VULNERABLE NOW--

HOLOCAUST IS ONE OF APOCALYPSE'S FOUR HORSEMEN, A RULING ELITE.

AND EXCEPT FOR EN SABAH NUR, AND LORD DOOM HIMSELF, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE ON THE PLANET.

ICEMAN, NOW!



BUT WATCHING
THE X-MEN WORK
TOGETHER...

...I SEE MORE THAN
JUST RAW POWER IN
ACTION, I SEE...

...BALANCE.

HOLOCAUST'S ENERGY
FORM IS FROZEN ON
A MOLECULAR LEVEL.

BUT IS EVEN
THAT GOING TO
BE ENOUGH?

ORORO, THERE'S AN
EMBER GLOW STILL BURNING
INSIDE OF HIM!

IT ISN'T
WORKING!



I'LL KEEP
POURING IT ON,
BUT HOLOCAUST CAN'T
CONTROL HIMSELF IN
HIS ENERGY
FORM.

IF HE BREAKS
FREE, SANCTUARY
IS GOING TO BE A
MORTUARY!



BENNETT--
TELEPORT THE
BOY AS FAR AS
POSSIBLE!

NO! I
CAN CONTAIN THE
DISCHARGE!

WE CAME
HERE FOR *CYPHER*!
HE IS OUR LAST
HOPE!



I
HAVE HIM,
ORORO.

TAKE
A DEEP
BREATH.

WHAT?

THIS
IS GOING
TO *REALLY*
HURT...



NEW CAIRO.

WE FOUND
NIGHTCRAWLER
AND THE BOY ON
THE OUTSKIRTS
OF THE BLAST
PERIMETER.

THE X-MAN
WAS DEAD. I
CAN ONLY SURMISE
THE DISTANCE OF HIS
TELEPORTATION
PROVED FATAL.

THE BOY WAS
ALIVE. BARELY. I HAVE
BEEN REGENERATING
HIM.

AND
HOLOCAUST?

HIS
DETONATION
UTTERLY ANNIHILATED
OVER TWO THOUSAND
SQUARE MILES OF
THIS SO-CALLED
"SANCTUARY."

EVEN THE
ASH WAS BEREF OF
HIS TRACE
ENERGY.

DR. MCCOY,
I CAN SAY WITH
GREAT CONFIDENCE
THAT THERE IS NOW AN
OPENING FOR A NEW
HORSEMAN.



WHY, DR. BRADLEY, THAT IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM MY MIND.

I AM TOO BUSY MOURNING THE TRAGIC LOSS OF OUR LEADER'S SON.

YOUR AMBITION GROWS MONOTONOUS, HENRY.

ALWAYS THE DARK BEAST IN SPIRIT, AS WELL AS IN FORM.

I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE HERE, SIR...

AND YET, YOU KNOW I AM EVERYWHERE.

SUCH SINISTER MACHINATIONS...

...RATHER THAN PLANNING HOW TO BE NAMED ONE OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN...

...YOU SHOULD DISCERN WHY THIS CHILD IS SO IMPORTANT...

...THAT BARON NUR WOULD DISPATCH TWO HORSEMEN TO RETRIEVE HIM...

...AND FIVE X-MEN WERE WILLING TO DIE TO CLAIM HIM.

WE'VE HAD THE BOY IN OUR DATABASE FOR YEARS, ESSEX.

CYPHER WAS INCONSEQUENTIAL.

WHAT GOOD IS THE POWER OF LANGUAGE WHEN THE WORD OF APOCALYPSE IS ALL THAT MATTERS?

HMM. SO HE WAS. WHO COULD REMEMBER THEM ALL...?

TAKE THE BOY'S RESTRAINTS OFF. IF HE HAS ANYTHING TO TELL US...

"...MY PRELATES
WILL PRY IT OUT
OF HIM."

THE SUMMERS
BROTHERS. THEIR
NAMES ARE SPOKEN
ONLY IN TERRIFIED
WHISPERS.

THEY RUN THE
ELITE MUTANT
FORCE. JUDGE,
JURY AND
EXECUTIONER
ALL ROLLED
INTO ONE.

NNYEEAAGH!

ALEX, THAT'S
ENOUGH.

BUT NOW, THE
FEAR I SENSE ISN'T
COMING FROM MY
SCREAMS...

HE
HASN'T TOLD US
ANYTHING YET,
SCOTT!

...IT'S
IN THEIR
VOICES...

BECAUSE
HE HAS NOTHING
TO TELL, ALEX!

LORD ESSEX,
THIS IS NOT THE
BEST WAY--



YOU HAVE
GOTTEN TOO **SOFT**,
BROTHER.

SPARING
FLATSCANS IS BAD
ENOUGH, BUT TAKING
IT EASY ON A
TERRORIST...?

YOU
THINK KILLING
OUR OPPONENTS
IS THE ONLY
SOLUTION?

HE'S
A **KID** WHO
JUST WANTED TO
ESCAPE ALL OF...
THIS.



"THIS"?

THIS IS
WHAT WE HAVE
EARNED!

WE
DESERVE TO
BE ABOVE THE
HUMANS!

CYCLOPS IS SICK OF
THIS WORLD. HAVOK...
REVELS IN IT.

BUT THE ONE THING
THEY SHARE IN COMMON
(BESIDES BLOOD)
IS...**CONFUSION.**



MY CHILDREN SQUABBLE, DOUGLAS. ARE YOU WORTH ALLOWING THEIR **SIBLING RIVALRY** TO TEAR THEM ASUNDER?

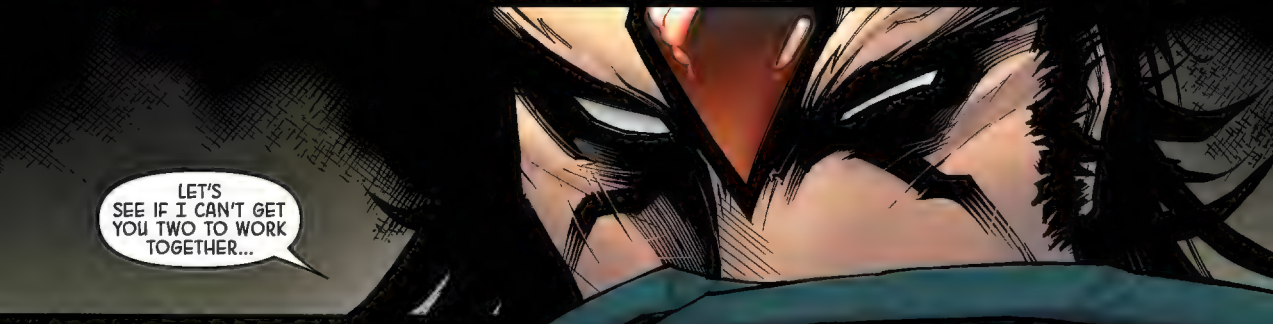
I THINK NOT.



MY BOYS...I SHOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED YOUR **PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES** TO GROW SO WIDE.

IT HAS AFFECTED YOUR ABILITY TO PROPERLY CONDUCT YOUR **JOB**S.

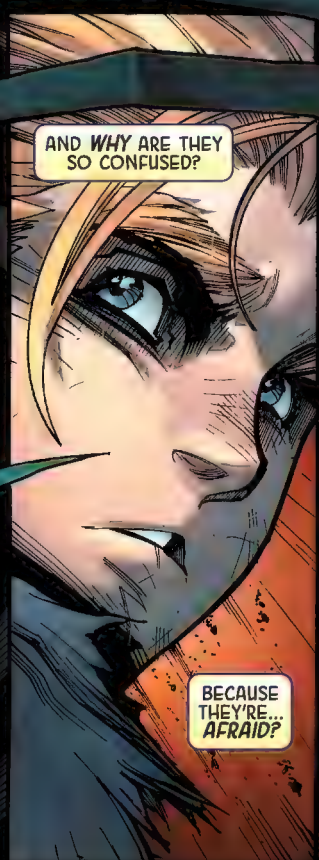
NOT MINE, SIR.



LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T GET YOU TWO TO WORK TOGETHER...

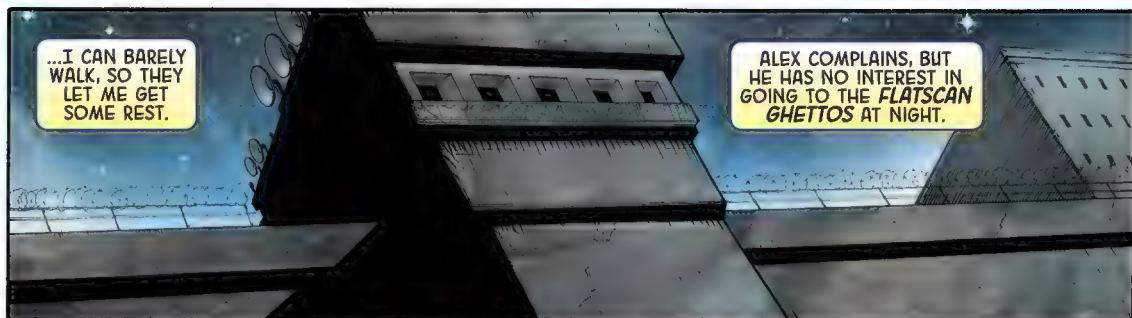


...TAKE CYPHER FOR AN IMPROMPTU SWEEP OF OUR **INDUSTRIOUS FLATSCAN COMMUNITY**.



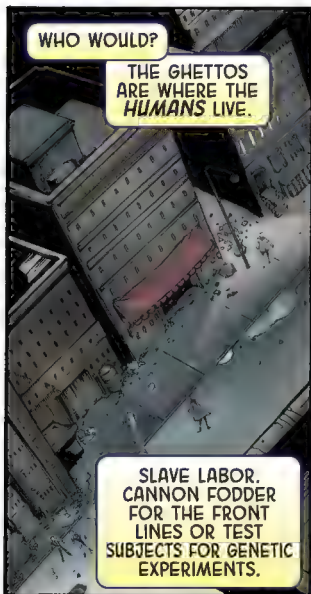
AND WHY ARE THEY SO CONFUSED?

BECAUSE THEY'RE... **AFRAID?**



...I CAN BARELY WALK, SO THEY LET ME GET SOME REST.

ALEX COMPLAINS, BUT HE HAS NO INTEREST IN GOING TO THE FLATSCAN GHETTOS AT NIGHT.



WHO WOULD?

THE GHETTOS ARE WHERE THE HUMANS LIVE.

SLAVE LABOR. CANNON FODDER FOR THE FRONT LINES OR TEST SUBJECTS FOR GENETIC EXPERIMENTS.



USED DURING THE DAY, IGNORED AT NIGHT...

...WHICH IS WHEN THEY DREAM OF FREEDOM.



THOUGH SOME DO MORE THAN JUST DREAM...

WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE.



STORY OF MY LIFE, SHERIFF DANVERS.



THZZZAK

BURNER,
THE HEAT ON ALL
OF YOU IS TOO
MUCH!

I CAN'T
WORK WITH YOU
ANYMORE!



BUT IT'S OKAY
IF WE DANCE,
CAROL?

I CAN
GUARANTEE AT
LEAST ONE OF
THOSE...

ALL OF
YOU LEAVE A
TRAIL OF PAIN
AND DEATH
BEHIND
YOU!

...SINCE
YOU KNOW ONE
SMALL CUT IS ALL IT
TAKES TO FRY
YOU ALIVE.

TRUCE.
WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

OUR INTEL SAYS
YOU'RE GETTING A
VISIT FROM THE ELITE
MUTANT FORCE IN
THE MORNING.

WE'D LIKE
A CHANCE TO
SAY HELLO...

THE BIO-LABS



THE HUMAN COMPOUND

MORNING.

CYCLOPS' TEAM IS COMPOSED OF SIBLING CLANS. POORLY EDUCATED, BUT VERY WELL INDOCTRINATED.

ON OUR WAY TO THE GHETTO, I LISTEN TO THEIR CRASS, IGNORANT BANTER, LOOKING TO GLEAN SOME MEANING...

...BUT THERE'S NO DEPTH TO ANYTHING THEY HAVE TO SAY...

--GO TO HEAVEN AFTER THIS AND SEE THAT RED-HAIRED DISH.

AH BEEN WITH HER!

YOU AIN'T!

AH HAVE, SAM!

TELL ME WHERE HER BIGGEST FRECKLE IS...

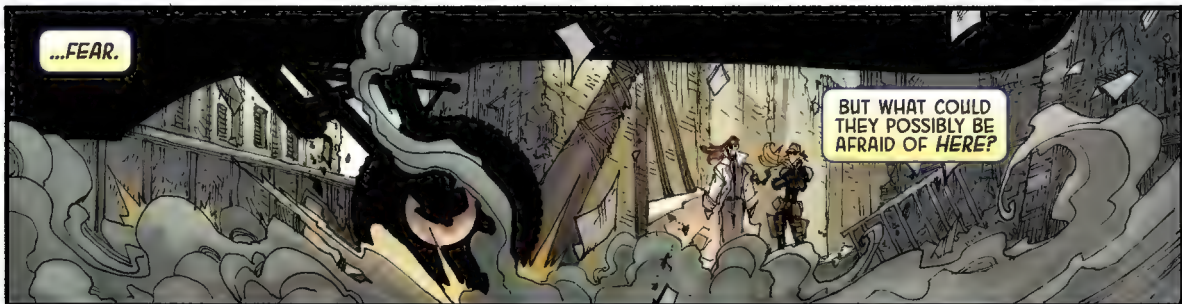
HOLLOW WORDS FROM EMPTY MINDS.

BUT NOT THE SUMMERS BROTHERS.

ENOUGH! WE'VE LANDED!

EYES OPEN! EVERY HUMAN DOWN THERE WANTS YOU DEAD!

SOMETHING ELSE UNDERLIES EVERY CLIPPED ORDER THEY GIVE.



...FEAR.

BUT WHAT COULD
THEY POSSIBLY BE
AFRAID OF HERE?



DR. PETER CORBEAU
IS THE OFFICIAL
HUMAN LIAISON.

CAROL DANVERS
IS THE GHETTO
SHERIFF.



PETER.

PRELATE
SUMMERS.

IS THIS A
ROUTINE SEARCH
FOR THE USUAL
SUSPECTS?



WE'RE NOT
HARBORING
THE X-MEN. YOU
KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR
DIFFERENCES WITH
MAGNETO.

ESPECIALLY
IN LIGHT OF WHAT
THEY DID TO LORD
HOLOCAUST...

UNDER THE
EDICT OF EN SABAH
NUR, HIS NAME IS NEVER
TO BE SPOKEN
AGAIN.



U
UNDERSTOOD.
MY APOLOGIES.
S

I
WON'T LIE TO
YOU...
U

...THERE
IS A LOT
OF UNREST
AMONG THE
HORSEMEN.
O



MP
FEELING JUMPY,
DANVERS?
A



TH V US W L I E O LL MU ANT
AROUND
YOU? ALWAYS.
W

WERE IT
UP TO ME, THIS
WOULD BE RESOLVED
IN ONE BIG
FIREBALL.
L



A
AMEN TO THAT,
FLATSCAN.
L

BOY, YOU
HAVE ANYTHING
FOR ME YET?
E

NO,
PRELATE.

I START TO PUT IT TOGETHER,
HEARING "BETWEEN THE
LINES" AND PLUCKING OUT
THE **HIDDEN INTENT** FROM
EVERYTHING THEY SAY.



ENOUGH
WITH THE DANCE,
CORBEAU!

R
THE
X-MEN KILLED A
HORSEMAN!

I
WANT TO
KNOW WHERE
THEY ARE
NOW!



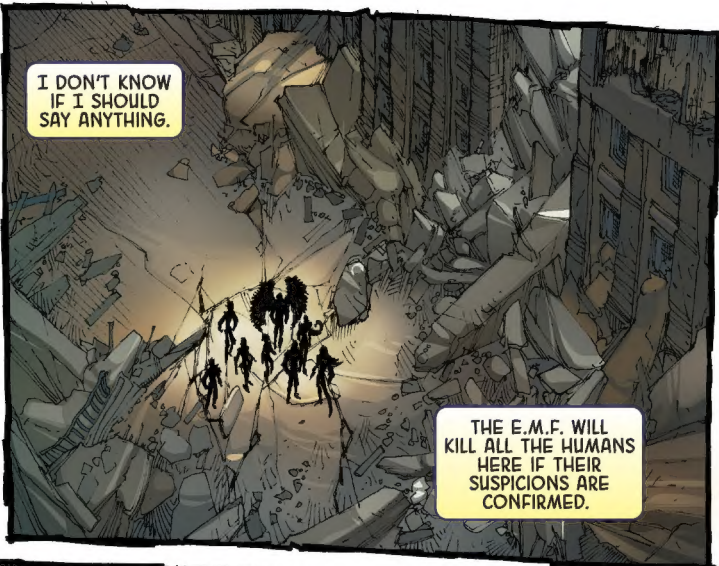
E
EVERYONE
STAY CALM. THE
HUMANS AREN'T
BEHIND THIS!
S

AND **THERE** IT IS.
WHAT THE HUMANS
HAVE BEEN HIDING
AND THE MUTANTS
ARE AFRAID OF...

THE
VIRUS WILL
WIPE OUT ALL
MUTANTS



I DON'T KNOW
IF I SHOULD
SAY ANYTHING.



THE E.M.F. WILL
KILL ALL THE HUMANS
HERE IF THEIR
SUSPICIONS ARE
CONFIRMED.

BUT THE HUMANS--OR AT
LEAST *SOME* OF THEM--ARE
PLANNING *GENOCIDE*.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN
REVEALING THE *TRUTH* OR
MAINTAINING THE *LIE*
WILL GET PEOPLE KILLED?

EVERYONE'S
IN POSITION,
MAGNETO.

LET'S
BEGIN.





GGGRRMM

ATTACK
FORMATION:
MEGIDDO!

THAT WHOLE
BUILDIN'S COMIN'
DOWN!

TAKE COVER!



GUSH

ALEX!

SCOTT SUMMERS
SECRETLY WISHES HIS
BROTHER IS DEAD...



CYCLOPS,
YOU HAVE A
HOSTAGE WHO IS OF
GREAT INTEREST
TO US.

AND THAT VOICE, OLD AND WEARY
(BUT STILL COMMANDING AND TERRIFYING),
SECRETLY WISHES HE WAS DEAD, TOO...



WE
WANT THE
BOY.

PLEASE...
RESIST US...

NEXT:

THE X-MEN ATTACK!
THE FOUR HORSEMEN FIGHT BACK!
THE HUMANS WANT PAYBACK!
AND WILDCHILD STILL WANTS A FEMUR!